



U.S. Department of Justice

Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*



For Immediate Release:

Contact: Susan Plochinski (313) 226-9193
Vera Fedorak - ATF - (313) 259-7917

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EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Charles Highgate

DEFENDANT SENTENCED AS CAREER OFFENDER IN PSN CASE

A Detroit resident was sentenced today to 360 months imprisonment for charges involving felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, possession with intent to distribute more than five grams of cocaine base, and possession with intent to distribute heroin, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Charles Highgate, 27, of Detroit, was sentenced as a career offender by United States District Judge John Corbett O'Meara.

On September 12, 2005, a jury found Highgate guilty of all charges. The charges arose following an investigation and execution of a search warrant at a house in Detroit by members of the Detroit Police Narcotics Squad. During the execution of the search warrant, a Detroit Narcotics Officer located Defendant in the rear of the premises secreting a gun and

plastic bag (containing both cocaine and heroin) underneath a tire.

Highgate has a prior criminal history which includes prior felony convictions for possession with intent to deliver controlled substances. Defendant was on probation at the time of the offense.

"The lengthy sentences offenders receive under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative are aimed at discouraging felons from possessing firearms," stated U.S. Attorney Murphy. "Project Safe Neighborhoods targets career offenders like Mr. Highgate in an effort to make our communities safer."

"Repeat and violent offenders are a top priority," said SAC Goddard. "The Federal firearms laws are meant to protect the public by imposing lengthy prison sentences for those individuals who have previous felony convictions and have proven, through their own actions, that they cannot own or possess a firearm responsibly," she added

The case was the result of multi-agency cooperation between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Detroit Police Department Narcotics Section, and the Wayne County Prosecutors Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Terrence R. Haugabook.